**Fannin County Family Connection**

**Board Minutes**

**October 14, 2021**

In Attendance

Present: Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Tom Niswander, Sherry Echelberger, Maureen Escott, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, James Brumbelow, Robert Gleadal and Jim Yacavone.

Absent: Jane Kimzey, Gordon Riddoch, Candace Youngberg, Theresa Dillard, Cindy Trimble.

Staff present: Sherry Morris

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Yacavone and seconded to approve the minutes. All were in favor of approval.

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Cox-Brakefield.

Finance Committee Report: Tom Niswander

Tom Niswander gave the financial report which is attached. The Georgia Family Connection payment of $12,000 has not arrived yet.

Donations are not dropping as expected so that's good news.

Cost of pantry items isn't hitting high numbers as grocery stores. However, availability is shrinking so not as much to choose from due to transportation issues.

We are on track with expenses.

Tom distributed plans for utilization of Pittullouch funds granted to FCFC and made a motion for the board to approve allocation of those funds. The motion was seconded by Jim Brumbelow. All unanimously approved.

The 990T Review was filed on November 15th. The final is posted on the website for Board access.

Tom submitted the Reserves and Investment Policy for FCFC for review by the Board. Tom moved to adopt same. There was no discussion. Bob Gleadal seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval.

Tom tabled the Staff PTO Policy Proposal for a future meeting.

Governance & By-Laws Committee- Sherry Echelberger

FCFC by-laws require that executive officers be elected annually and serve a minimum term of one year.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for submitting nominees for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to the Board in November for a vote in December for new executive officers to begin their term in January.

Cathy Cox-Brakefield confirmed that she has served as Chair for over 4 years and will not be considered for another term.

A meeting of the Nominating Committee will be scheduled to create the nominee selections for submission to the Board at November's meeting.

Strategy Team Update: Anna Speessen

The team met this week.

The upcoming Mental Health Awareness Television Campaign will have 4 guests featured.

Watch Parties are scheduled to be held at The Craddock Center, Fannin County Family Connection or The Blue Ridge Community Theater. You can register or watch at home. There will be discussions afterwards in case of trigger response.

Ana offered to help Sherry Morris with the writing of a grant, i.e., Mental Health Post Covid, to continue funding metal health awareness as there are lots of funds available.

Ana's main concern is that we can and have determined that there are mental health issues in our community but there are no support services available to those in need.

Sherry Morris reported that the Review of Community Service Conference on human trafficking was a huge success. First Lady Kemp, Steve Miracle and guests did an outstanding job. We were praised for having a well-coordinated event that added to its success. ETC has committed to re-airing 9 times because of the tremendous success. Collaboratives have contacted Sherry with requests to use it for training purposes.

Tour of Homes Fundraiser: Renee Lunney

Renee Lunney reported that we have 4 confirmed homes for Christmas Tour of Homes. By the end of the meeting Michael Kilpatrick had confirmed an additional home bringing the count to 5.

Sponsorships are at $7,300 to date. Our budget is $25,000 but most current sponsors are new and the regular sponsors have yet to commit.

The Board agreed to an in person tour.

Jim Brumbelow offered to provide some small toys from Toys for Tots for each home to give away to children attending the Christmas Tour of Homes.

We will need volunteers of the Board to help decorate FCFC prior to the event on December 5th. A schedule will be set up to do that.

All Board members are requested to pursue silent auction items to auction on the day of the event when tickets and signs are picked up by our sponsors.

Board members were asked to bring 5 small gift items to the next board meeting to be placed in a basket to be delivered by Sherry Morris to each host of The Christmas Tour of Homes on the day of the event.

Board members are encouraged to sign up and attend the Civic Dinner scheduled for November 4thC at FCFC. This event is an eye opener as to what our clients are experiencing on a day to day basis as we experienced at the April 2021 event.

Directors Report: Sherry Morris

Monthly statistics -As always Food Lion leads the way, donating the greatest number of retail pounds. Monthly reports are attached. October and November are traditionally the pantry’s busiest months.

Chamber of Commerce – Eggs & Issues Breakfast is being held at FCFC on Tuesday October 19th 8:30-10:30 am.

Coat Distribution in cooperation with the News Observer will be done on November 1-3rd from 1-5 pm and November 4th from 1-6 pm. Board members are asked to help with sorting and sizing prior to the event on Friday, October 29th, 10 am – 1 pm.

Adjournment

Cathy Cox-Brakefield adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Sherry Echelberger

Next Board meeting – November 11th , at 2 PM